

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace [0030] with the following:

[0030] The second waveguide 430 facilitates focusing the radiant energy to a desired spot size onto the recording medium 130. The second waveguide 430 is optically coupled with the first waveguide 420. The second waveguide 430 has a functional or characteristic width W2 and a refractive index n2. The width W2 is sized such that radiant energy (generally designated by reference number 440) emerging from the second waveguide 430 is focused to a desired spot size S2. The width W2 can be different from the width W1, and that is typically the case, given that the output spot size of the second waveguide 430 is significantly smaller than the input spot size to the first waveguide 420. The width W1 may be five times larger than the width W2. For example, the width W2 may be on the order of 100-150 nm, and the width ~~W2~~ W1 may be on the order of 500-1000 nm. The second waveguide 430 can be formed of a material that is a non-conductive dielectric and having extremely low optical absorption (high transmissivity). For example, the material can include Ta₂O₅.